PHILO ELECTED TO HEAD AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Ralph Philo, prominent grower and hybridizer of hibiscus in the Ft. Myers area, has been elected international president of the American Hibiscus Society for 1966-1967. The election took place at the annual membership meeting held June 17th through 19th in Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Philo has been growing hibiscus for some 15 years and has long been active in the Hibiscus Society and the promotion of the growing of the flower in Fort Myers. He is past president of the James E. Hendry Chapter and through his and some other local members efforts this chapter is now the largest in the Society.

Other officers elected at the annual membership meeting were Lee Trainor, first vice president; Eric Golby, second vice president; D. U. Donaldson, treasurer; Josephine Tipton, secretary. Directors elected for the term of 1966-1969 were C. E. Landers, L. T. King, and R. E. Draggoo. Dr. Cos Leefmans was elected to fill the unexpired term held by Eric Golby for the year of 1967.

Past President Col. William A. Squires installed the new officers in an impressive ceremony at the noon luncheon on Sunday during the membership meeting. He charged the officers to carry on the good work of the Society and outlined each officer's duty during his installation talk.

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REQUEST FOR PICTURES

Mr & Mrs. James E. Monroe, P. O. Box 98, Eagle Lake, Florida would like to receive any pictures taken of the Necrology Service at the Annual Meeting. If you have any please get copies made and send them to the Monroes. They will be glad to pay the expense of having pictures or slides made.

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LETTER TO MR. GORDON S DUN from Ross Gast

Dear Friend Dun: February 16, 1966

You have asked me to comment on the influence of the female parent and other matters having to do with parental selection in the hybridization of ornamental hibiscus. However, I think I can best answer your questions, as far as they can be answered conclusively, by giving you my understanding of the genetic history of the hibiscus group with which we are working.

Modern taxonomists refer to the ornamental hibiscus as Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, citing as their authority Linnaeus' Species Plantarum, published in 1753. In all probability the type he referred to was the double red, which had wide distribution throughout China, Southeast Asia, the South Indian Ocean islands and the Pacific in pre-European discovery times.

The limited historial literature on H. rosa-sinensis does not establish its geographical origin, yet most references call it a native of China. However, before Linnaeus gave it the name "Chinese Rose" it was called Scheru-pariti by Van Rheede, who described and pictured the double form in his Hortus Indicus Malabaricus, published in 1678. It was introduced in England under the name of H. javanica, a native of Java, by Philip Miller in 1731. Miller, curator of the Chelsea Botanic Garden, London, is credited with being the first to grow ornamental hibiscus in England; he brought in many forms from all parts of the world. With further regard to the double red, the great Pacific-area botanist E. D. Merrill says of the presence in the Pacific of this species - if, indeed, it is a true species - that it is a "pre-Magellan, man-introduced ornamental species from the West," meaning, of course, that it had been brought into the Pacific during the Polynesian migrations from Southeast Asia.

Perhaps the name H. rosa-sinensis was known early in China and Southeast Asia, or at least it was found there by the first Europeans to visit the area, might

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